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FM AMEMBASSY TASHKENT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0998
INFO RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT

UNCLAS TASHKENT 000947

SIPDIS
DEPARTMENT SCA/CEN
DEPARTMENT PASS TO OPIC (KENNETH ANGELL)

E.O. 12958: N/A TAGS: <u>EINV</u> <u>EFIN</u> <u>UZ</u>

SUBJECT: UZBEKISTAN: APPLICATION FOR OPIC FINANCE

REF: STATE 57096

- 11. (U) Post knows of no recent events that would impact on the proposed project (reftel) to remodel Malika Hotels Khiva, Khorezm, and Khevak. Despite the global economic downturn, the tourism sector in Uzbekistan is still strong, fueled largely by European retirees.
- 12. (U) Post has no information on Khiva Malikhasi or O&S Consulting relating to potential ties to terrorism, money laundering, corruption, or violations of law.
- 13. (U) Post knows of nothing concerning any of the participants that would cause us not to support the project. On the contrary, Post has only the most positive information concerning O&S Consulting. Embassy personnel have stayed in Malika hotels in the past as part of both official and personal travel.

 NORLAND